

## **Inwood Forest Has Long History in Area**

Neither the oldest nor the largest subdivision in the greater Inwood area, Inwood Forest is the most recognizable because it straddles Antoine Drive, the major north/south thoroughfare from Highway 290 to Beltway 8. Its beautiful trees and reasonably priced homes are a pleasant surprise considering its close-in location in the northwest quadrant of the greater Houston metroplex. Its proximity to Intercontinental Airport, the Galleria, and four major traffic arteries that offer quick routes to downtown Houston, three convention centers, and Hobby Airport make Inwood Forest truly an urban forest.

But it was Inwood Forest's rural qualities that attracted the first buyers who viewed their new homesites from the windows of small airplanes used by the builders to show the properties. The first section of Inwood Forest was the site of the "water district" houses required by the county. Developer Jimmy G. Wilkerson designated as Section One the triangle formed by Victory on the north, West Little York on the south, and Antoine on the east. Pace Setter Homes sold the first house in Inwood Forest on October 25, 1965. The homes ranged in price from \$14,995 to \$17,995.

Pace Setter Homes and Arnold Morgan Homes completed Section Two and sold homes in the \$25,000 to \$30,000 price range. When White Oak Bayou was crossed, rapid development began. Merit Homes and Arnold Morgan Homes showcased their talents in custom built homes of varied architectural design in the \$25,000 to \$40,000 price range in Sections Three through Fifteen. New buyers cut pictures of these homes from the newspapers and sent them to their friends and relatives to impress them with the unusual designs and the large size. Section Thirteen was deeded to Inwood Townhomes.

When Houston Baptist University developed the three sections of Inwood Forest nearest the club, they became affectionately known as "Baptist Row." In 1967 the university purchased 189 acres of land for \$2,850 per acre and developed Sections Six, Ten, and Twelve from 1969 to 1971. When changes in the federal tax laws taxed nonprofits on unrelated business income, real estate development became less desirable for Houston Baptist University. The last area they developed was the 190 acres of land adjacent to Inwood Forest on the east called Inwood Pines.

Sections Sixteen through Nineteen were scattered properties owned by the golf club that were sold through the 1970s. Section Twenty on Long Creek Court and Antoine was the last to be developed, bringing the total number of homesites to 1250 with 535 golf course sites.

Inwood Forest grew and prospered during the boom years of the 1970s with upper end home values soaring to \$250,000 to \$300,000. A 1700 sq. ft. house was valued as high as \$135,000. Residents had free access to the IFCIA' swimming pool, back yard garbage pick up, and full time security. The area was annexed by the City of Houston in 1976. The prosperity and growth of Inwood Forest continued through the early 1980s.

## **Inwood Forest Ready for Bright Future**

When the first house sold in Inwood Forest over thirty years ago, the land on which the Galleria stands was only a prairie with a one-room schoolhouse on it. Inwood Forest may not have changed as much as the Galleria area, but it has changed. As the twenty-first century approaches, Inwood Forest is poised to deal with the changes that will occur in the future.

A map of Inwood Forest shows that it has been spared from being a grid of streets and concrete by the large amount of dedicated green space along White Oak Bayou, Vogel Creek and former golf course. Inwood Forest is the north portion of the area referred to as "the near northwest." It is the location, the green spaces, the architectural variety of the houses, and the variety of its people that make Inwood Forest the next "newest hot spot" according to some Inwood residents. People of all occupations, from artists to bankers to construction workers, reside in Inwood Forest.

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